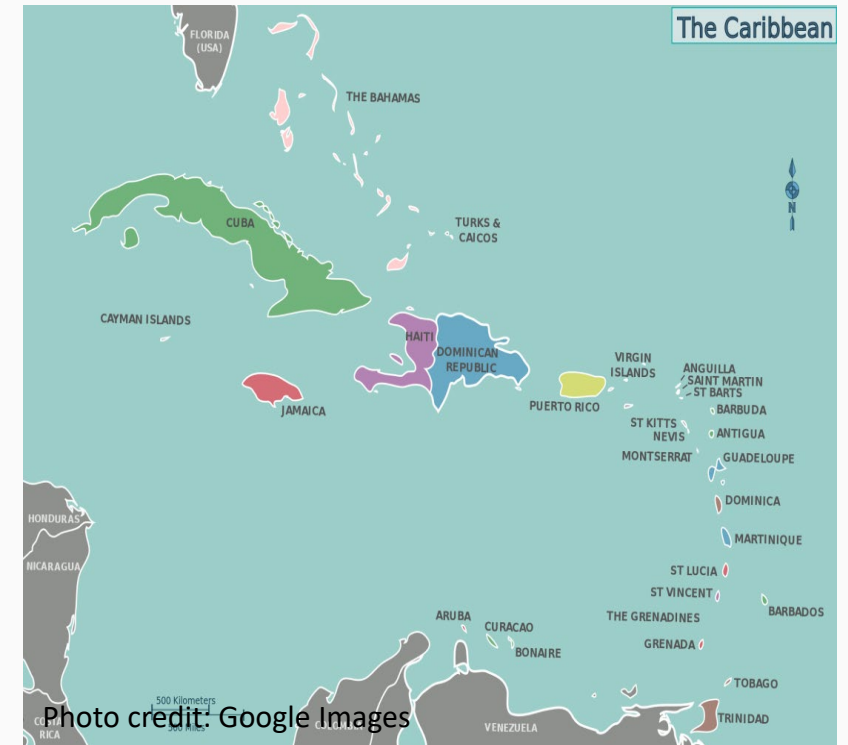


Migration, Integration, and Diaspora Engagement in the Caribbean: A Policy Review

Joint publication by the Migration Policy Institute (MPI) and Inter-American Development Bank (IDB)

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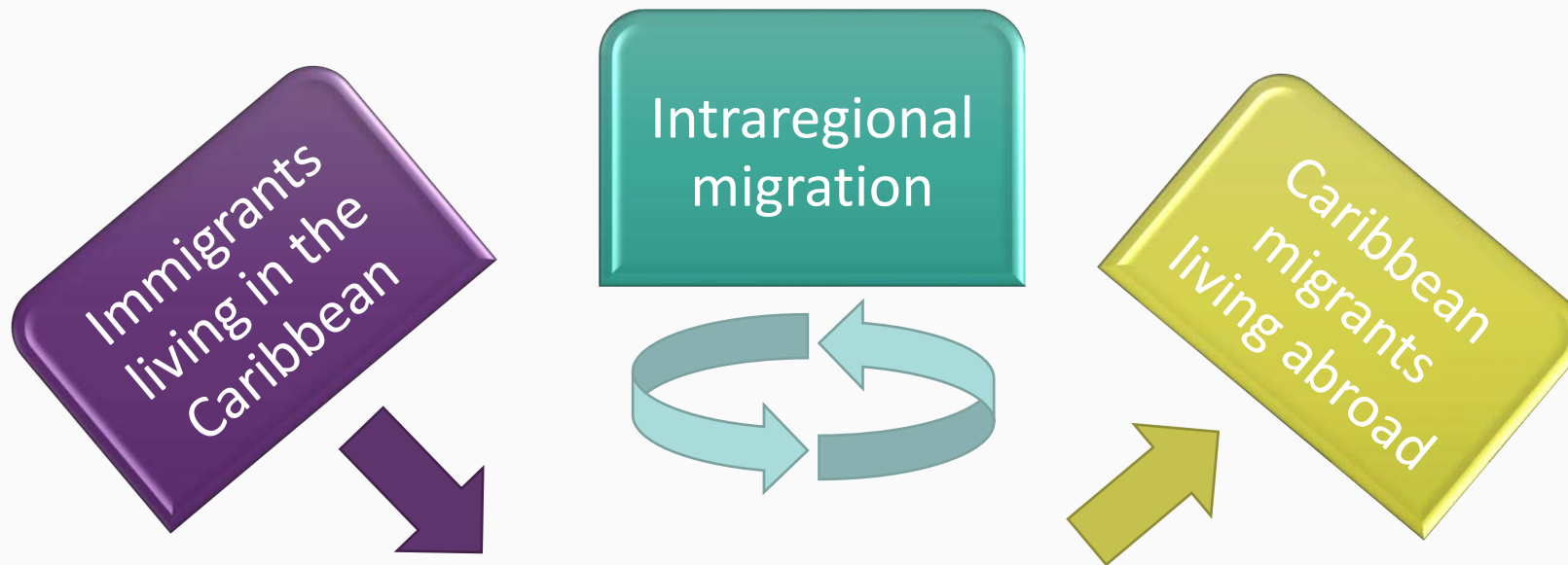


Photo credit: Google Images

Research Project

- Objective
- Methods
- Limitations

Primary Countries of Study



Belize



Bahamas



Barbados



Dominican
Republic



Guyana



Haiti



Jamaica



Trinidad and
Tobago



Suriname

Countries in the
greater
Caribbean are
discussed as
relevant

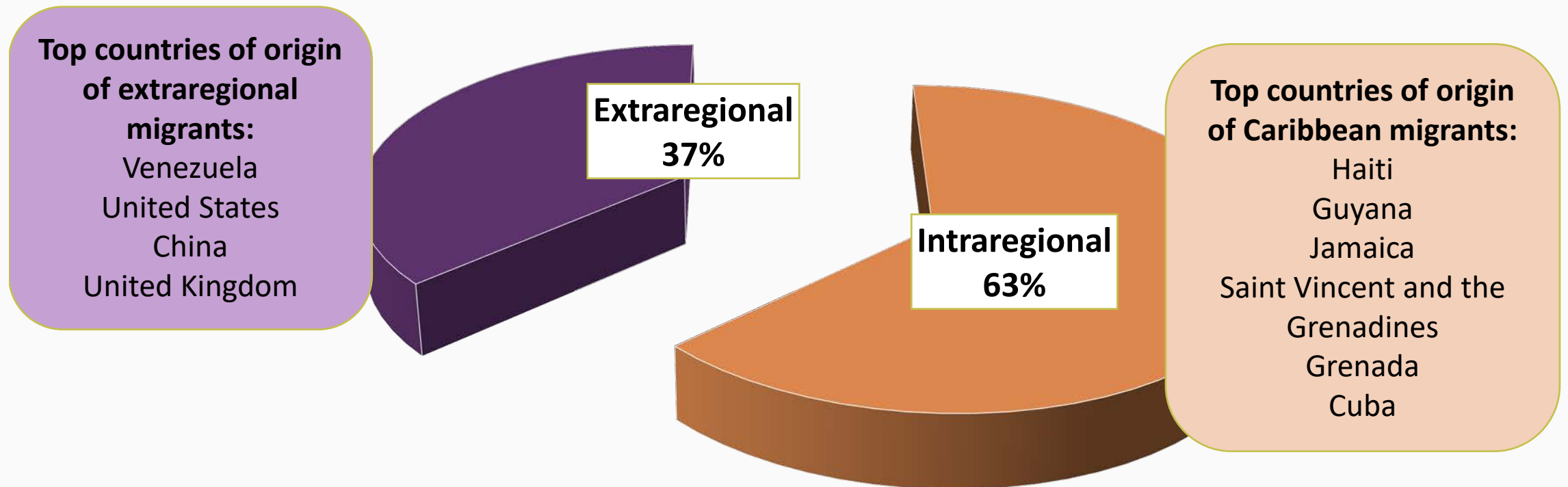
Content of the Report

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| Migration Data | The Immigration Landscape (Section 2) |
| Institutional Framework | Migratory Institutions (Section 3) |
| | Free Mobility Pathways and Multilateral Agreements (Section 4) |
| Cross-Cutting Issues | Climate Change, Natural Disasters and Migration (Section 5) |
| | Immigrant Integration (Section 6) |
| Looking forward | Leveraging Diaspora for Development (Section 7) |
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Migration Data

Extra- and intraregional immigrants and humanitarian populations

In 2020, there were over 1.6 million immigrants living in the 9 primary countries



Source: Tabulation of data primarily from the Inter-American Development Bank (IADB), "DataMIG" and in a few cases, from the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Population Division, "International Migrant Stock".

*Countries listed have at least 9,000 immigrants living in the 9 primary countries

Haitians and Venezuelans represent the largest flows of migrants in the 9 primary countries

Haitians

53% of all immigrants

496,000 in DR

30,000 in The Bahamas

Arrivals after 2010 earthquake,
ongoing insecurity

Venezuelans

17% of all immigrants

115,000 in DR

24,000 in Trinidad and Tobago;
23,000 in Guyana

Arrivals since 2014 political
and economic turmoil

Source: Tabulation of data primarily from the Inter-American Development Bank (IADB), "DataMIG" and in a few cases, from the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Population Division, "International Migrant Stock".

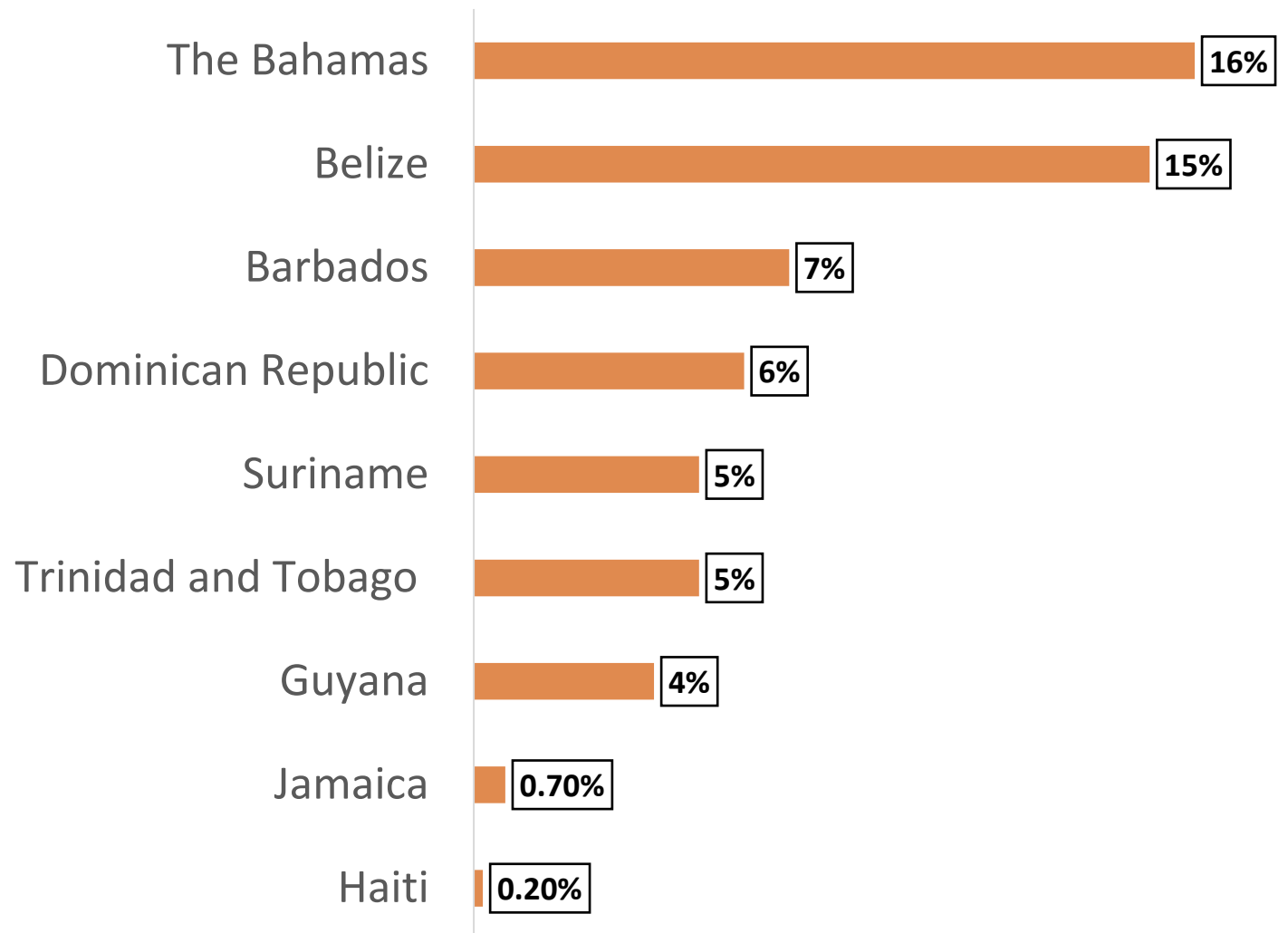
The Dominican Republic hosts by far the largest immigrant population



Source: Tabulation of data primarily from the Inter-American Development Bank (IADB), "DataMIG" and in a few cases, from the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Population Division, "International Migrant Stock".

The immigrant population represents 1% to 16% of the total population in the 9 primary countries

Share of Foreign-Born Population out of Total Population, 2020



Source: Tabulation of data primarily from the Inter-American Development Bank (IADB), "DataMIG" and in a few cases, from the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Population Division, "International Migrant Stock".

The Bahamas and Belize have relatively large shares of immigrants



The Bahamas

- 60% are from Haiti and Jamaica
- Also in the Top 5: U.S., U.K., Canada



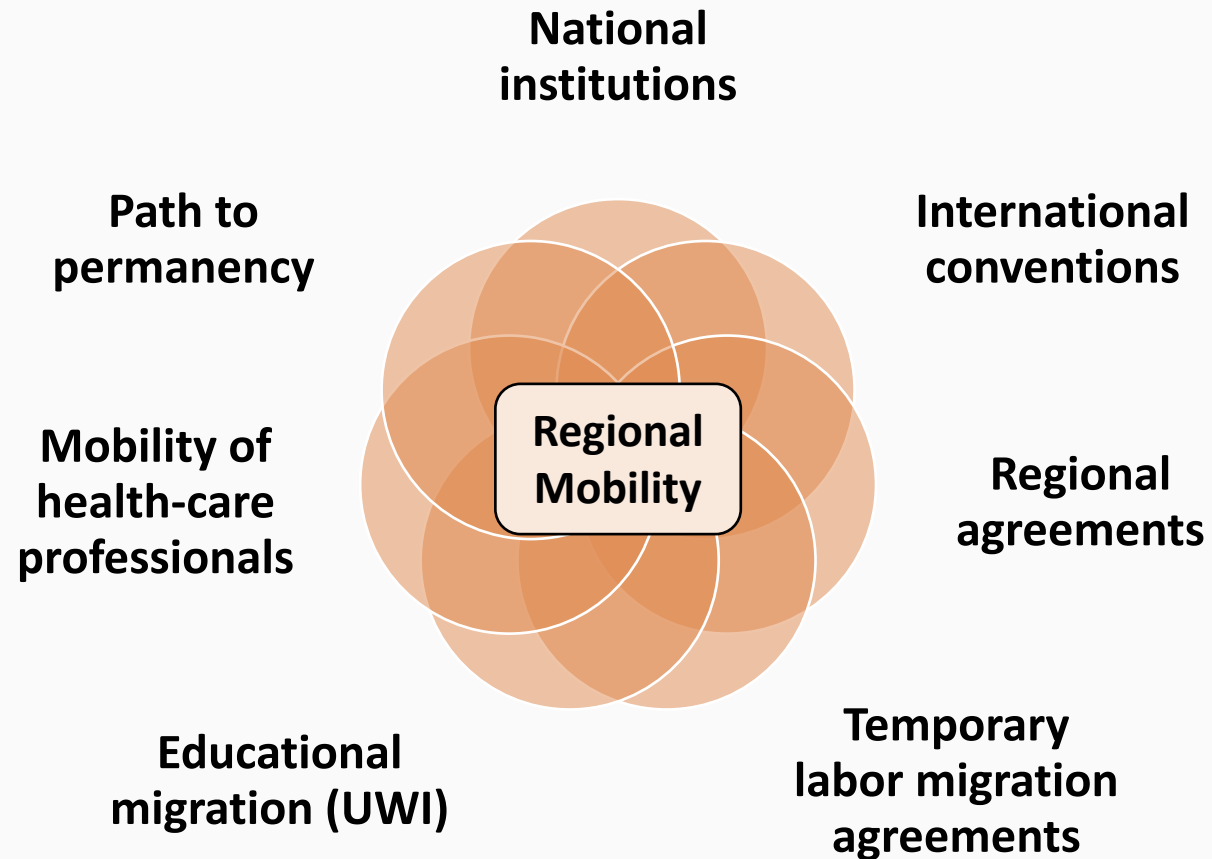
Belize

- Smallest share of Caribbean migrants
- Top 5 countries of origin are Guatemala, El Salvador, Honduras, U.S., Mexico

Institutional Framework

Migratory institutions and multilateral agreements

Instruments governing regional mobility



All primary countries but DR are members of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM)

CARICOM

- Free mobility regimes and increasing regional integration
- 15 Member States

CARICOM's Single Market and Economy (CSME)

- 6-month visa-free stays in other Member States
- The Bahamas is not a member
- Implementation not complete in Belize and Haiti

CSME Free Mobility

- No work authorization with 6-month visa-free stay
- May be restricted due to national security concerns or if a CARICOM national could become “a charge on the public funds”
- Uneven implementation across countries = ease of movement varies by nationality

| CSME Free Mobility Regime (2017) | |
|---|--|
| Most Registered Inflows of Nationals from other CSME Member States | <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Barbados2. Trinidad and Tobago3. Guyana4. Antigua and Barbuda5. Jamaica |

Source: Tabulation of data from Estela Aragón and Briana Mawby, Free Movement of Persons in the Caribbean: Economic and Security Dimensions (San José, Costa Rica: IOM, 2020), 33.

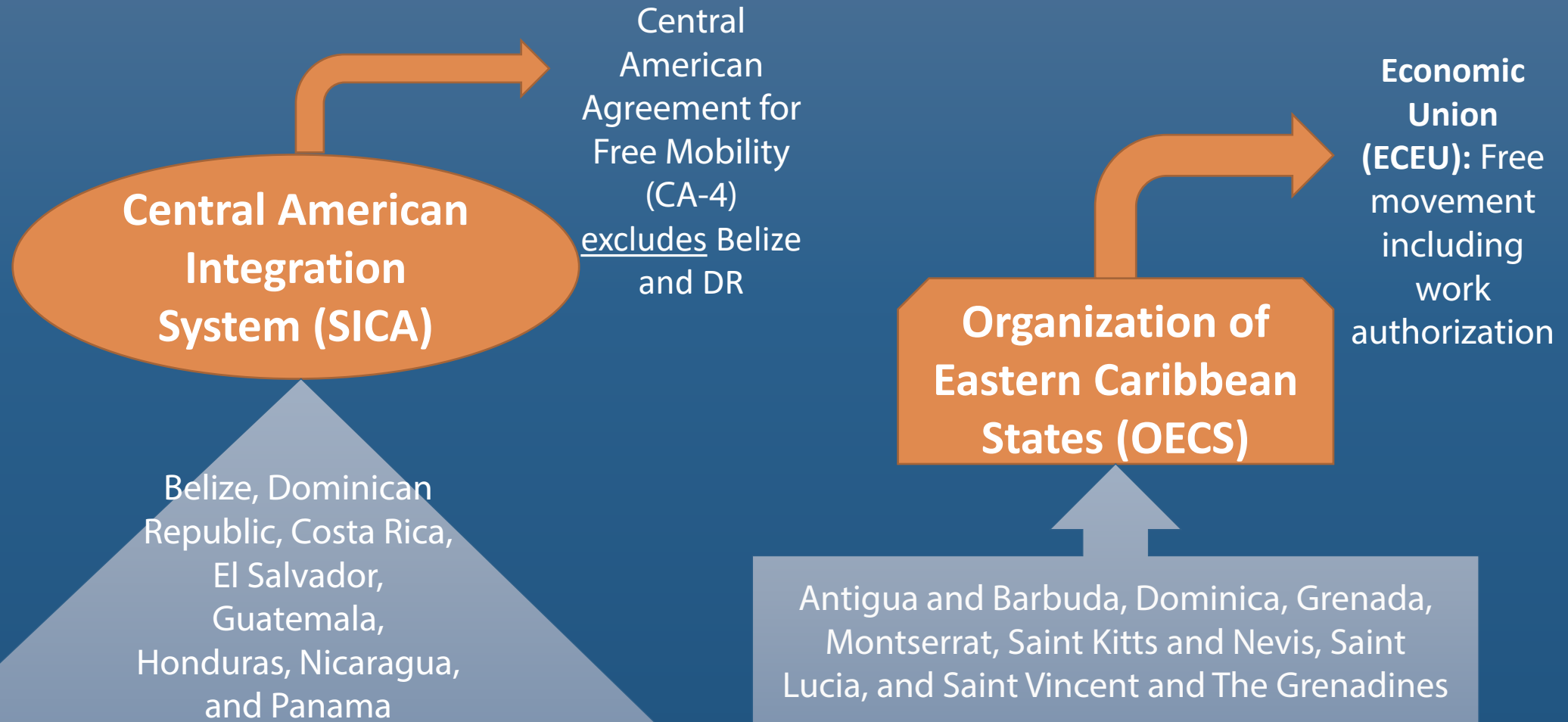


CSME Skills Certificates

- Specific categories of workers can get a certificate that allows them free movement and work authorization:
 - Original categories: university graduates, artists, musicians, media workers, sportspersons
 - Newer categories: teachers, nurses, people with an associate degree or equivalent, artisans with a CVQ, household domestic workers with a CVQ
 - Not yet in practice: agricultural workers and security guards

*CVQ : Caribbean Vocational Qualification

Other Regional Agreements with Mobility Provisions



Access to refugee status is limited but demand for protection is significant

- Few institutions or regulations for humanitarian protection in the Caribbean
- In 2020, **8 out of 9** primary countries **had less than 200 refugees** resettled under the UNHCR mandate.

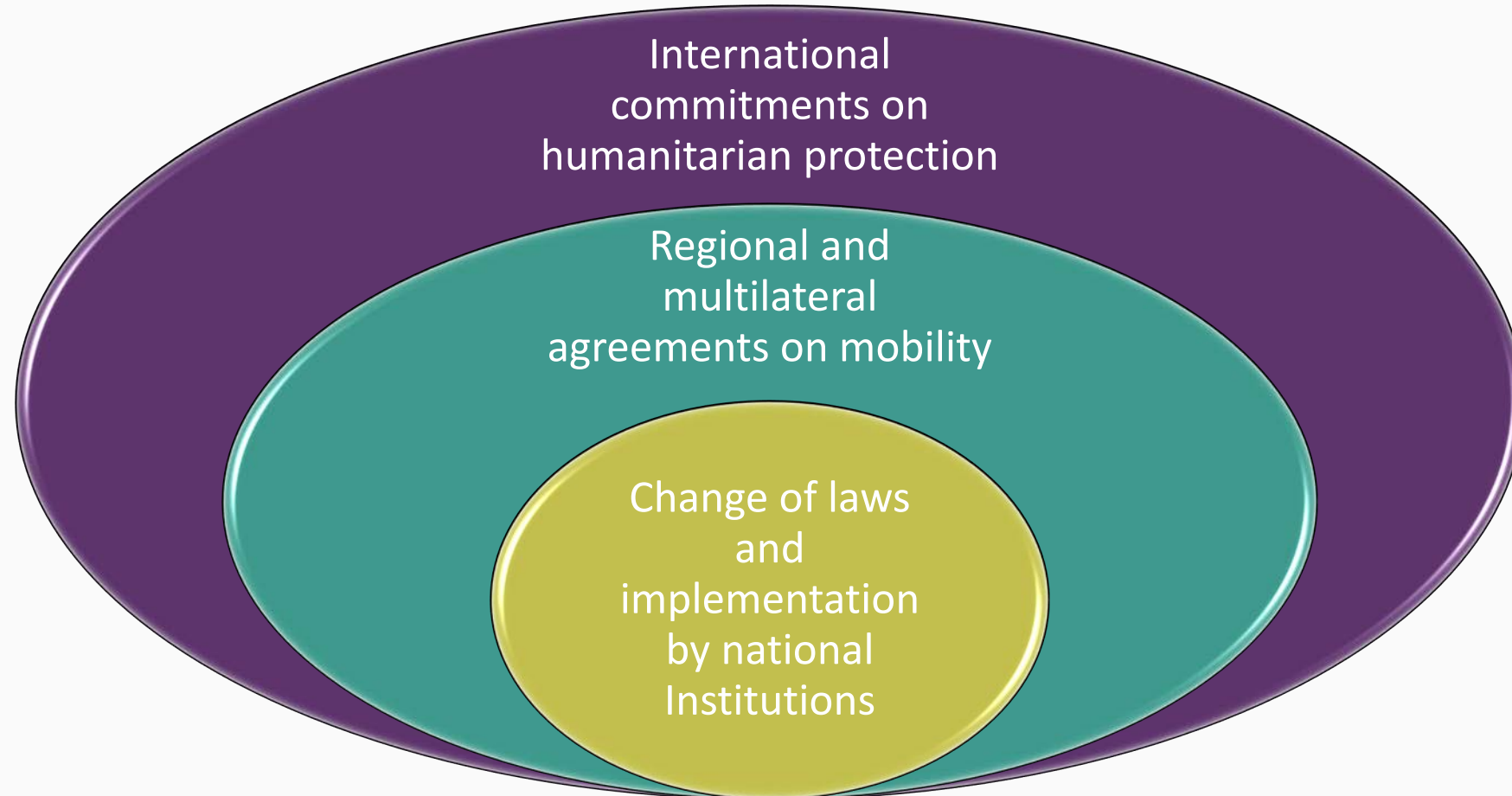
Over 3,000 refugees were resettled in Trinidad and Tobago in 2020

Most were from Venezuela, followed by Cuba

The highest numbers of asylum seekers were in Trinidad and Tobago, Suriname and Belize

Source: UNHCR, "Refugee Data Finder."

Ultimately, national institutions are tasked with implementing provisions around mobility



Challenges

- Administrative, may require modernization of government systems
- Financial resources
- Staff capacity
- Political will
- Public perception

Cross-Cutting Issues

Climate Change, Regularization and Integration

The Caribbean is one of the world regions most affected by climate change and natural disasters, leading to significant displacement

Hurricanes

Earthquakes

Tropical Storms

Flooding

Drought

Volcanic eruptions



Examples of ad-hoc regional response to climate migrants from Haiti and Dominica

2010 Earthquake in Haiti

DR extended special protection and humanitarian visas, suspended deportations

The Bahamas, Jamaica, and Turks and Caicos suspended deportations

Dominica extended all Haitians' stay for 6 months

2017 Hurricane Maria in Dominica

Trinidad and Tobago, Antigua and Barbuda, Grenada, Saint Lucia, and Saint Vincent and the Grenadines accepted Dominicans through the CSME 6-month stay

Immigrant Integration

Regularization

- Special and extraordinary measures to grant status to irregular migrants

Access to Education

- Migrants generally have a right to an education, but there are gaps between policy and practice

Access to Health

- Many Caribbean countries have universal health-care systems
- Difficulty of access for those in irregular status

Social Cohesion

- Host communities' concerns, jobs
- Class, ethnic-based discrimination

Looking Forward

Diaspora Engagement and Recommendations

Emigration from the Caribbean has always been important; the diaspora plays a key role in the region's development

76 percent of migrants from the 9 primary countries lived in the U.S., Canada or the U.K.

Top receivers of remittances as % of GDP in 2020: Jamaica (26%), Haiti (19%) and DR (11%)

Remittances boost household consumption, investment in education, small businesses, and building homes.

Diaspora engagement through entrepreneurship, promotion of knowledge and technological transfer, and opening export markets

The report concludes with 11 recommendations that aim to:

Improve **regional cooperation** on migrant mobility by building on existing regional mechanisms

Strengthen **national institutions' capacity** for migration governance

Strengthen **immigration research capacity** of Caribbean institutions

Invest in **infrastructure, transport and travel networks**

Invest in **resilience to climate change and natural disasters**

Help governments foster an environment conducive to **diaspora engagement**

Thank you!

Report: *Migration, Integration, and Diaspora Engagement in the Caribbean: A Policy Review*

<https://bit.ly/migrationcaribbean23>

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A Policy Review

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